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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
MIKIO KONDO, ET AL. : EXAMINER: MAI, N.
SERIAL NO: 09/927,323 :
FILED: AUGUST 13, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1742
FOR: METHOD OF FORMING A :
POWDER COMPACT :

12/a
PL
11/26/02

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action of August 28, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of forming a powder compact comprising:
- applying a higher fatty acid lubricant to an inner surface of a heated die; and
- filling metal powder into said die and compacting said metal powder under such a pressure that said higher fatty acid lubricant is chemically bonded with said metal powder to form a metallic soap coating.
2. (Amended) The method of forming a powder compact of claim 1, wherein said higher fatty acid lubricant is a metal salt of a higher fatty acid.

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